CAPTAIN AMERICA
70th ANNIVERSARY ISSUE!
70TH ANNIVERSARY
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BRUBAKER – WRITER CHAREST – ART PONSOR – COLOR ART VC'S CARAMAGNA – LETTERING

THIS IS THE TRAJECTORY OF MY LIFE...
GUHH--
EVERY TIME THINGS ARE FINALLY STABLE... FINALLY GOOD...
SOMETHING SUDDEN HAPPENS...TO WRECK IT ALL...
FIGHT! FIGHT!
AND THEN I LEARN TO LIVE WITH THAT...
FIGHT! FIGHT! FIGHT!
AND AFTER A WHILE...WORSE-OFF BECOMES THE NEW NORMAL...

...AND THEN IT STARTS ALL OVER AGAIN.
URSA! URSA! URSA!
GET 'IM!
TEAR HIS HEAD OFF!
GULAG
Ed Brubaker - writer
Mike Deodato - artist
Rain Beredo - color artist
VC's Joe Caramagna - letterer
Sankovitch, Brevoort & Alonso - edits
I DIDN'T TRY TO EXPLAIN THAT TO STEVE THE LAST TIME I SAW HIM...
--NOTHING WE CAN DO, FOR NOW. NOTHING LEGAL, AT LEAST.
APPARENTLY THEY HELD YOUR TRIAL YEARS AGO.
HE WOULDN'T HAVE UNDERSTOOD.
YEAH, I READ THAT.
FOR SOME CRIME I SUPPOSEDLY COMMITTED IN THE '80S?
THEY SAY YOU KILLED SOME PEOPLE... NOT UNDER ORDERS.
RUSSIAN CITIZENS.

YEAH... I HAVE NO MEMORY OF THAT.
WONDER IF I WAS TRYING TO ESCAPE?
THIS IS JUST TEMPORARY.
AND WE'VE BEEN GIVEN ASSURANCES YOU'LL BE TREATED HUMANELY.
THAT'S COMFORTING.
LISTEN TO ME, BUCKY...
I DON'T CARE WHAT I HAVE TO DO. I WILL FIX THIS.
STEVE'LL KEEP FIGHTING, HE MAY EVEN WIN... I HOPE SO.
BUT THERE'S A PART OF ME THAT'S ALREADY GIVING UP.
I WAS JUST ABOUT TO GET MOST OF MY LIFE BACK... AND SUDDENLY...

...I'M DRAGGED BACK INTO MY OWN PERSONAL NIGHTMARE.
RRAAGGHHH!!
KA-THUUD
WUUHH--
BECAUSE THIS IS THE TRAJECTORY OF MY LIFE...
--BEEN INFORMED OF THE ARRANGEMENT MADE WITH THE UNITED STATES FOR YOUR TRANSFER OF CUSTODY.
NOT THAT WE WERE PLANNING TO TORTURE YOU, ANYWAY...

...BUT THE AVENGERS WILL SEND AN ENVOY REGULARLY TO ASSESS YOUR TREATMENT.
A WASTE OF EFFORT, I ASSURE YOU, WINTER SOLDIER...
...BECAUSE WE HAVE MANY TRAITORS HERE.
HERE, YOU ARE NOT SPECIAL.
CAN I GO TO MY CELL NOW, WARDEN?
JUST ONE THING... THE DEAL THAT WAS MADE?
IF YOU EVEN ATTEMPT AN ESCAPE...IT IS INVALIDATED.
AND IF YOU SUCCEED, YOU'LL BE A FUGITIVE NOT JUST FROM RUSSIA...
...BUT FROM YOUR OWN COUNTRY, AS WELL.
YOU UNDERSTAND?

BETWEEN THE LINES, I HEAR WHAT HE'S *REALLY* SAYING.
GET *USED* TO IT.
BECAUSE YOU *AREN'T* GOING ANYWHERE.
JUST LIKE ALL THE *OTHER* OLD SOLDIERS IN THIS *GULAG*.
WORN DOWN.
EMPTY.
I LOOK AROUND THIS *HELLHOLE* AND I THINK...
I REALLY DON'T WANT *THIS* TO BECOME MY NEW *NORMAL*.

SOME OF THE PRISONERS, THE WAY THEY LOOK AT ME...
I CAN'T TELL IF IT'S HATRED OR FEAR...
OR BOTH AT THE SAME TIME.
BUT AT LEAST THEY LEAVE ME ALONE.
I WONDER HOW LONG THAT WILL LAST.
SO...THE RUMORS WERE TRUE.
IT TURNS OUT, NOT LONG AT ALL...

THE WINTER SOLDIER HAS HARDLY AGED IN FIFTY YEARS.
BUT LONG LIFE IS NOT A GIFT, EH, COMRADE?
NO, LONG LIFE IS A CURSE.
AS YOU NOW SEE.
SORRY...AM I SUPPOSED TO KNOW YOU?
WHAT?
YOU DON'T EVEN...
NICOLAI.
YES, SIR.

KRAAK
OKAY... FINE...
..LET'S GO, YOU SON OF A--
NOW NOW... DON'T BE HASTY...
...THE GUARDS ARE WATCHING YOU.
AND WE WOULDN'T WANT TO CAUSE AN INCIDENT, WOULD WE?
THERE'LL BE PLENTY OF TIME FOR THAT LATER...

FIGHTING ALREADY? THIS IS VERY BAD BEHAVIOR, BARNES.
I DIDN'T FIGHT ANYONE. JUST GOT HIT.
DO YOU WANT TO END UP HERE, IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT?
HOW WILL THAT LOOK WHEN IRON MAN OR MISS MARVEL ARRIVE TO VISIT?
THAT OLD MAN KNEW ME...
HE WOULD.
MY MEMORY'S A BIT SPOTTY, WARDEN.
HIS NAME IS YURI PETROVICH...
...AND A LONG TIME AGO, HE WAS--
THE CRIMSON DYNAMO.
AH... SO YOU DO REMEMBER?

YURI PETROVICH. TALK ABOUT A NAME FROM THE PAST.
YURI WAS THE FOURTH MAN TO WEAR THE CRIMSON DYNAMO ARMOR.
AND HIS EARLY LIFE WAS JUST AS TWISTED AS WHAT THE SOVIETS DID TO ME...
LIES, INDOCTRINATION, MIND-ALTERING DRUGS. THE WHOLE DEAL.
YURI SHOULD HAVE BEEN THEIR PERFECT ARMORED AGENT... BUT INSTEAD HE TURNED AGAINST HIS HANDLERS...
AND EVEN LOST HIS MIND FOR A WHILE, FROM WHAT I WAS TOLD
I CAME INTO IT DURING HIS TRIAL, WHEN YURI MANAGED TO ESCAPE...
...USING A CRIMSON DYNAMO ARMOR PROTOTYPE HE'D PRE-PROGRAMMED TO BREAK HIM OUT.
LIKE I SAID, MY MEMORY IS SPOTTY AT BEST... SO I DON'T RECALL ALL THE DETAILS.
BUT I REMEMBER STOPPING HIM FROM FLEEING THE COUNTRY.
AND I REMEMBER HIM BEING SENTENCED TO A LIFE TERM IN A WORK CAMP.

SO I'M NOT SURPRISED WHEN SOME GUARDS COME GET ME THAT FIRST NIGHT...
...AND BRING ME TO YURI...
YOU SEE NOW THAT I RUN THIS PRISON?
DOES THE WARDEN KNOW?
HEH... YOU LIKE TO JOKE.
BUT JOKING IS NOT WHAT WE DO FOR FUN AROUND HERE...
AND EVERYONE KNOWS THIS...
SO, WHAT DO YOU DO FOR FUN?
THAT, YOU ARE ABOUT TO FIND OUT, WINTER SOLDIER.

YOU REMEMBER ME NOW?
YEAH.
I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE IN HERE WHO HATES YOU...
JUST THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.
I'M NOT AFRAID OF YOU OR YOUR MEN.
NO...OF COURSE NOT... AND IT'S THAT FEARLESSNESS THAT I COUNT ON.
SEE, I KNOW ABOUT YOUR DEAL...ABOUT YOUR FRIENDS IN BRIGHT COSTUMES WATCHING OUT FOR YOU.
THE WARDEN TELLS ME OF THIS...AND THEN HE SAYS...

"BUT WHO CAN COMPLAIN IF HE DIES IN A FIGHT WITH ANOTHER PRISONER?"
WHAT?!
TAKE HIM TO THE ARENA, BOYS...
HEY!
"...AND LET'S SEE HOW LONG IT TAKES TO KILL HIM."
To Be Continued...

ONLY DAYS SINCE THE INVASION OF NORMANDY, AND ALLIED FORCES CONTINUE THE PUSH INTO OCCUPIED FRANCE.
OFTEN LED BY OUR OWN SUPER-SOLDIER-- CAPTAIN AMERICA!
WHO HAS NEVER YET MET AN ENEMY HE COULDN'T DEFEAT!
NO BULLETS CAN STOP HIM!
NOT EVEN TANKS CAN SLOW DOWN AMERICA'S FINEST SOLDIER!

YES, WITH CAPTAIN AMERICA AND HIS FEARLESS SIDEKICK BUCKY ON THE JOB...HITLER'S NAZIS DON'T STAND A CHANCE!
SO LOOK OUT, AXIS-- HERE WE COME!

MUST THERE BE A CAPTAIN AMERICA?

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SO, I'M GUESSING YOUR MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT DIDN'T GO WELL...
...SINCE YOU ONLY BREAK OUT THE OLD NEWSREELS WHEN YOU'RE DEPRESSED.
I HATED THAT THEY MADE ME POSE LIKE THAT.
COULD'VE STOPPED ANOTHER SQUAD OF GERMANS WHILE THEY FRAMED THAT SHOT.
ARE YOU AVOIDING THE QUESTION, STEVE?
YES... I AM.
HE SAYS OUR HANDS ARE TIED...THE RUSSIANS WON'T EVEN NEGOTIATE FOR BUCKY'S RELEASE.
NOT AT THIS JUNCTURE, AT LEAST.
AND HE ASKED ME TO CONSIDER TAKING UP THE SHIELD AGAIN.
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
NOTHING.

I JUST FEEL HELPLESS, SHARON. MY EX-PARTNER'S PROBABLY ROTTING IN SOME GULAG...
ALL I WANT TO DO IS FLY OVER AND BREAK HIM OUT...BUT I CAN'T...
THANKS TO MY POSITION, ANYTHING I DO COULD SPARK AN INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT.
A POLITICAL NIGHTMARE OF GLOBAL PROPORTIONS.
APPARENTLY THEY'RE GOING TO TRY MORE DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS...
IT'S GOING TO TAKE TIME...BUT BUCKY CAN TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF.
I KNOW... I JUST NEVER THOUGHT I'D MISS THE WAR...
BUT AT LEAST BACK THEN I DIDN'T HAVE TO DEAL WITH RED TAPE.

RATATATAATATAT
NO, THEN I JUST HAD TO DEAL WITH THE RED SKULL.
BUT I'D TAKE A BATTLE WITH THAT LUNATIC OVER DIPLOMATIC ROADBLOCKS ANY DAY OF THE WEEK.
AND MAYBE THAT SOUNDS STRANGE, OR WRONG...
YOU WILL DIE, AMERICANS!!

BUT AT LEAST THOSE WERE ENEMIES I COULD HIT...
I THINK NOT, UBER-MENSCH!
GUHH--
...AND I KNEW FOR SURE WHO WAS ON MY SIDE.
BRATATATATAT
WE NEED TO BREACH THAT KEEP!
BEFORE THE SKULL GETS AWAY!
I KNOW, CAP!
BRATATATATATATAT
HEADS UP!

INCOMING!
KA-WAAAM
NEVER LET IT BE SAID THE INVADERS DON'T KNOW HOW TO MAKE AN ENTRANCE.
HARD TO BELIEVE NOW THAT THOSE WERE ACTUALLY SIMPLER TIMES.

AND HARD TO BELIEVE I'M NOT SURE I WANT TO WEAR THAT UNIFORM AND CARRY THAT SHIELD AGAIN.
A-1
BUT THEN, THERE'S THE THING I DIDN'T SAY TO SHARON...
THAT I NEVER WANTED TO BE CAPTAIN AMERICA.
I WAS JUST SUPPOSED TO [redacted] A SOLDIER.

THE FIRST OF A WHOLE PLATOON OF MEN LIKE ME.
BUT AFTER PROFESSOR ERSKINE WAS KILLED...
...AND I WAS THE ONLY ONE OF MY KIND...
...I DID WHAT MY COUNTRY ASKED OF ME.
I BECAME A SYMBOL FIRST, AND THEN A SOLDIER.

THAT SYMBOL WAS A BURDEN I NEVER PLANNED TO CARRY ONCE THE WAR WAS WON.
BUT I WASN'T THERE TO SEE THAT DAY.
INSTEAD I WOKE UP IN A NEW WORLD, SURROUNDED BY OTHER PEOPLE IN MASKS.
AND FOUND I WAS STILL NEEDED.

AND BEING AMERICA'S SYMBOL HAD MADE ME A BETTER MAN.
SO EVEN THOUGH THE BURDEN CONSUMED MY LIFE...
...AND NEARLY COST ME EVERYTHING...
...I CARRIED IT WILLINGLY.
I'VE RARELY TRIED TO FIND A LIFE OUTSIDE THOSE STARS AND STRIPES.
BUT SINCE I CAME BACK... I HAVEN'T WANTED THEM.

ALL AMERICAN DINER
PARTLY BECAUSE OF THINGS I SEE COMING.
PARTLY BECAUSE I SAW THE BURDEN MAKING BUCKY A BETTER MAN, TOO.
BUT PARTLY BECAUSE I NEVER WANTED TO BE CAPTAIN AMERICA...
...I JUST WANTED TO SERVE.
YOUR MOVE.
MM-HMM...
SO, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
I'M NOT SURE...YOU'RE THE PROFESSOR, WALLY...
DOES THERE NEED TO BE A CAPTAIN AMERICA?
CAN'T I DO JUST AS MUCH GOOD OUT OF THE SPOTLIGHT?
I'VE OWED YOU MY LIFE SINCE 1944...AND I'M TOO DAMN OLD TO LIE TO YOU.

SYMBOLS ARE IMPORTANT TO THIS COUNTRY...
MAYBE MORE THAN THEY SHOULD BE...
BUT PEOPLE ARE SCARED NOW... MORE THAN THEY'VE BEEN SINCE WE WERE KIDS.
SO IT STRIKES ME THIS IS EXACTLY THE TIME WE COULD USE A CAPTAIN AMERICA.
SOMEONE WHO'LL RISE ABOVE THE NOISE AND POLITICS...
...AND LET THEM KNOW THERE'S SOMEONE ON THEIR SIDE.
BUT YOU MIGHT WANT TO TAKE THAT WITH A GRAIN OF SALT... BECAUSE I'M A BIG FAN.
WALLY DOESN'T UNDERSTAND, REALLY. HE CAN'T.

PRIVATE WALLY YOUNG, BRAVO COMPANY-- ONE OF TWO SURVIVORS FROM HIS PLATOON.
WALLY THINKS IT'S A MIRACLE BUCKY AND I SHOWED UP WHEN WE DID.
BUT ALL I THINK IS, IF WE'D GOTTEN THERE SOONER, WE MIGHT HAVE SAVED THEM ALL.
I KNOW WALLY'S RIGHT. I KNOW I'M NEEDED.
BUT AFTER THIS LONG OUT OF THE UNIFORM...
...I'M JUST NOT SURE I CAN DO IT AGAIN.
SO WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, ROGERS? WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
The End...?

JIM
APAR
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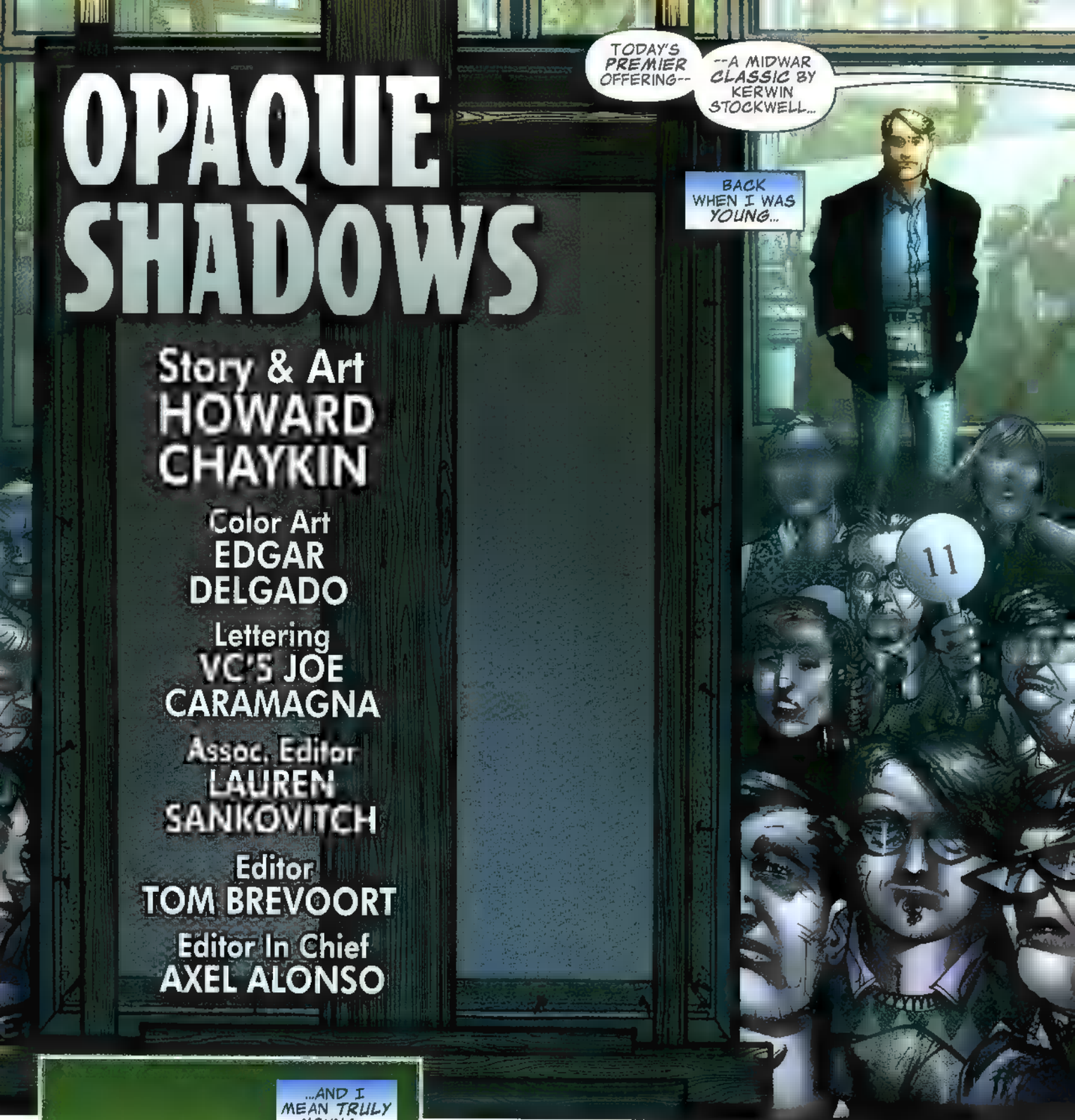


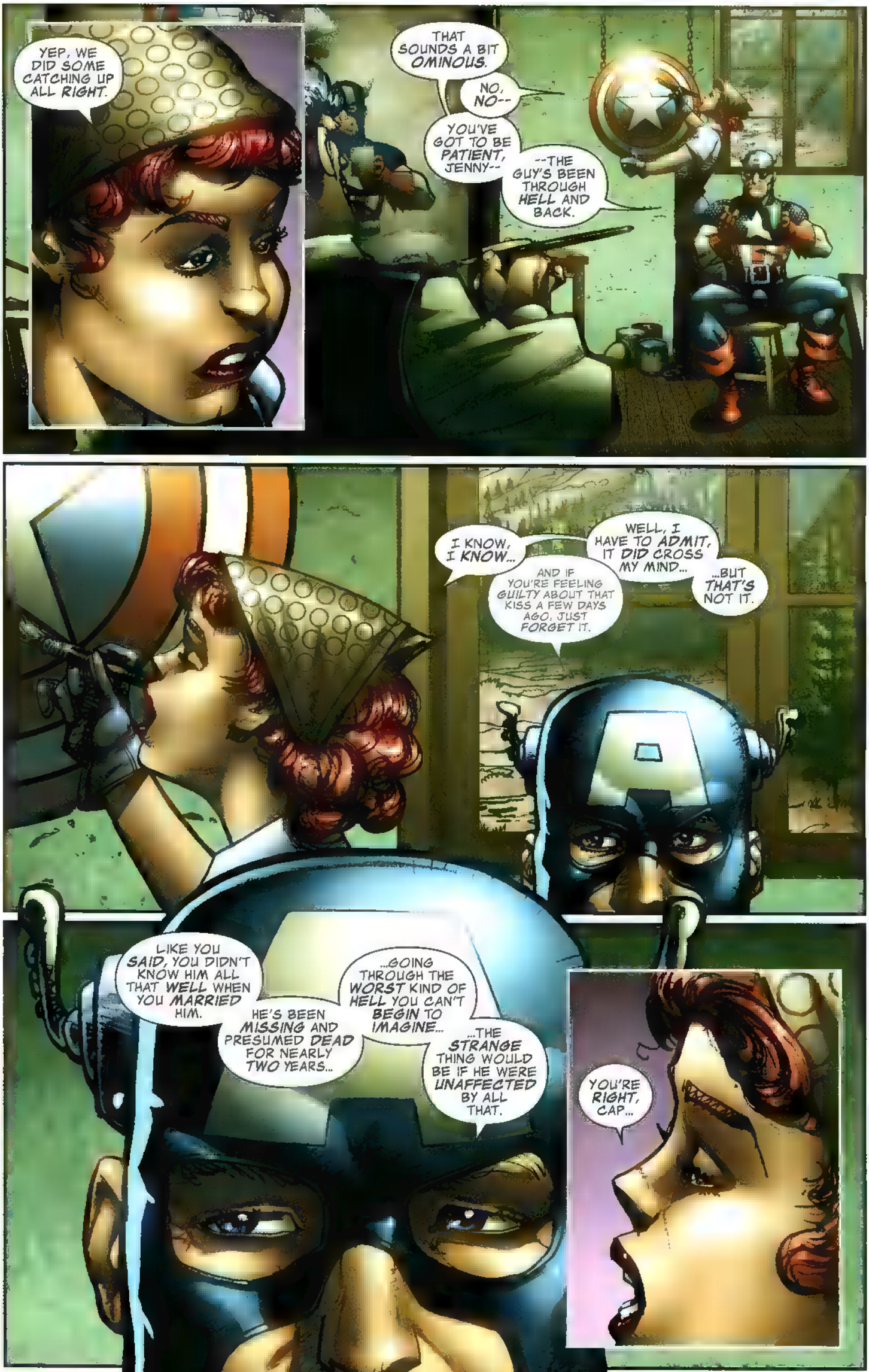
...MUSIC WAS MUCH MORE SENTIMENTAL...
YOU'RE FIDGETING AGAIN, CAP--
SORRY, SIR...
...I'M JUST A BIT CONCERNED ABOUT MY SHIELD.
REALLY NOW, CAP...
...YOU'VE CARRIED THIS SHIELD ACROSS EUROPE AND ASIA....
...ABOUT HOME, HEART, LOVE AND FAMILY...

...AND AN AWFUL LOT OF THOSE SONGS WERE ABOUT WISTFUL LONGING...
...WHATEVER COULD I DO TO IT THAT AXIS FIREPOWER HASN'T ACCOMPLISHED?
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT--
OF COURSE I AM...
--BUT I JUST GET A LITTLE HINKY WHEN IT'S NOT IN MY HANDS.

"WE'LL MEET AGAIN, DON'T KNOW WHERE, DON'T KNOW WHEN..."
"...BLUEBIRDS OVER THE WHITE CLIFFS OF DOVER..."
"...DON'T SIT UNDER THE APPLE TREE WITH ANYONE ELSE BUT ME..."
YOU WEREN'T ENTIRELY SERIOUS BACK THERE, WERE YOU?
ABOUT?
YOUR SHIELD.
NOT ENTIRELY, BUT SOME...
...YEARNING FOR THE TEARFUL, JOYOUS AND CERTAINLY INEVITABLE REUNION.
I WOULDN'T TELL EVERYBODY THIS, BUT IT FEELS LIKE A PART OF ME.
I UNDERSTAND-- I REALLY DO...
THE REALITY...
...IT'S A TALISMAN...WITH A DIRECT LINE TO YOUR HEART.
I GUESS THAT'S TRUE.
MIKE WOULD HAVE UNDERSTOOD, TOO.
...THE REAL POSSIBILITY OF PAIN, OF DEATH, OF GENUINE LOSS...

...THAT WAS DEALT WITH THROUGH WHAT WE NOW WOULD CALL "DENIAL."
HE JOINED UP THE DAY AFTER PEARL...
...WE GOT MARRIED ON DECEMBER 9TH...
...AND THE LAST LETTER I GOT FROM HIM WAS A YEAR LATER--
--FOLLOWED BY THE VISIT FROM THE ARMY A FEW MONTHS AFTER THAT.
MUST'VE BEEN AWFUL.
YOU BET IT WAS...
...BUT I'M TOO DARNED YOUNG TO BE A PERMANENT GOLD STAR WIDOW...
...PARTICULARLY FOR A GUY I BARELY KNEW.
AND THEN OF COURSE, THERE'S IRONY...
...THAT LITTLE SHOCK THAT REMINDS YOU MAN PLANS WHILE GOD LAUGHS.
CAP...

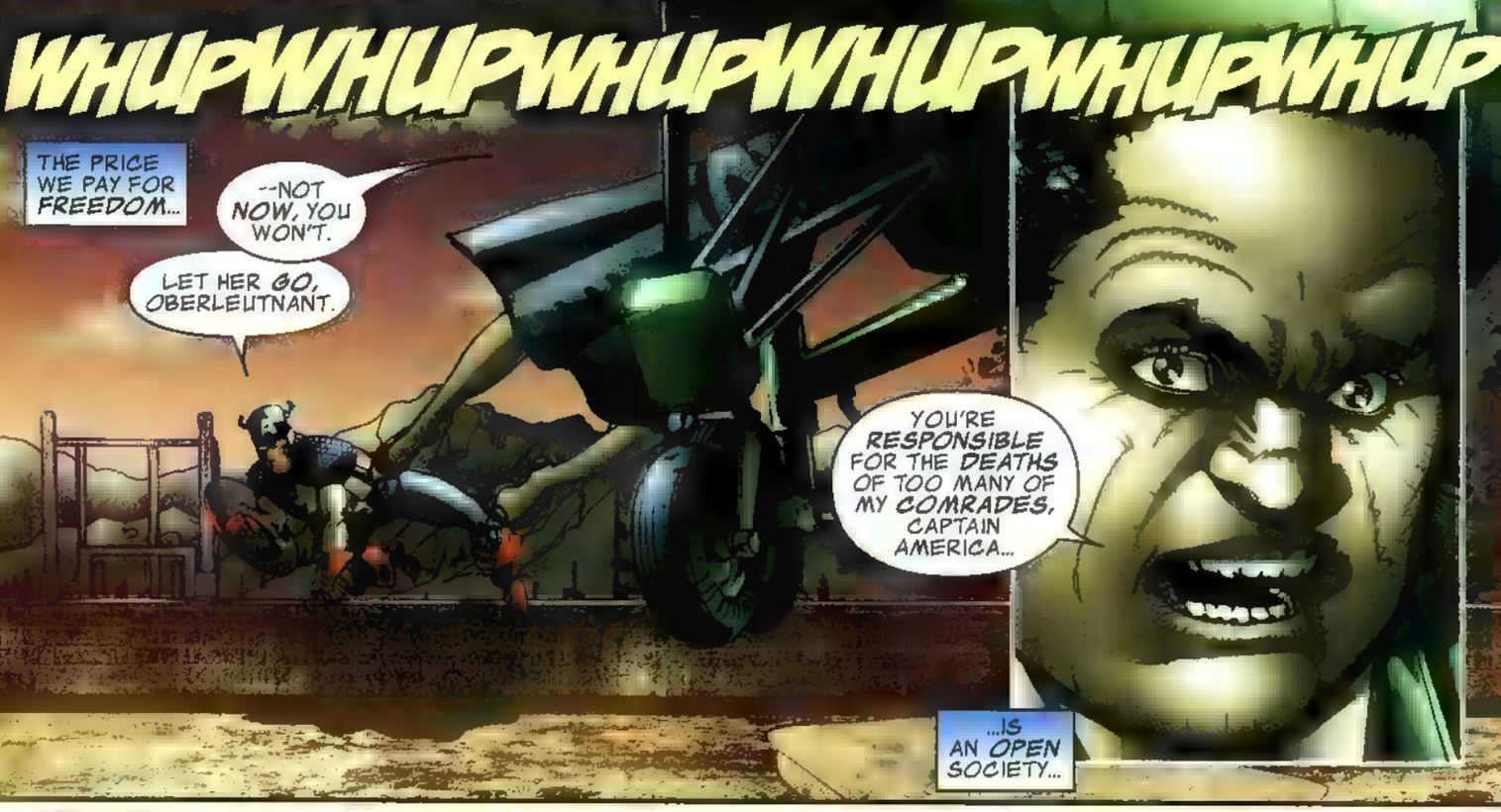
...THIS IS MY HUSBAND, MIKE--
--ISN'T IT WONDERFUL?
GOOD TO MEET YOU, MIKE.
LIKEWISE, CAP.
SO A LITTLE SNAFU, HUH, FELLA?
YOU COULD SAY THAT.
LIKE THE MAN SAID, THE REPORTS OF MY DEATH ARE GREATLY EXAGGERATED.
GLAD TO SEE YOU MADE IT OUT ALL IN ONE PIECE--
NOT QUITE ONE PIECE, BUT CLOSE ENOUGH FOR GOVERNMENT WORK.
SEE YOU TOMORROW AT THE STUDIO, MRS. GRIMALDI.
I'LL TRY TO MAKE IT...
BUT MIKE AND I HAVE SOME CATCHING UP TO DO.


YEP, WE DID SOME CATCHING UP ALL RIGHT.
THAT SOUNDS A BIT OMINOUS.
NO, NO--
YOU'VE GOT TO BE PATIENT, JENNY--
--THE GUY'S BEEN THROUGH HELL AND BACK.
I KNOW, I KNOW...
WELL, I HAVE TO ADMIT, IT DID CROSS MY MIND...
AND IF YOU'RE FEELING GUILTY ABOUT THAT KISS A FEW DAYS AGO, JUST FORGET IT.
...BUT THAT'S NOT IT.
LIKE YOU SAID, YOU DIDN'T KNOW HIM ALL THAT WELL WHEN YOU MARRIED HIM.
HE'S BEEN MISSING AND PRESUMED DEAD FOR NEARLY TWO YEARS...
...GOING THROUGH THE WORST KIND OF HELL YOU CAN'T BEGIN TO IMAGINE...
...THE STRANGE THING WOULD BE IF HE WERE UNAFFECTED BY ALL THAT.
YOU'RE RIGHT, CAP...

"...I'M SURE I'M IMAGINING THINGS."
IF ONLY THAT HAD BEEN TRUE...
NOW LET'S ALL JUST STAY CALM...
...OR IF ONLY I'D PAID CLOSER ATTENTION TO JENNY'S CONCERNS...
...I'M NOT HERE TO PUT ANYBODY THROUGH ANY UNNECESSARY TROUBLE...
...A TRAGEDY MIGHT HAVE BEEN AVERTED.
...BUT I HAVE NO PROBLEM USING THIS.
YOU REALLY CAN'T THINK YOU CAN GET AWAY WITH THIS, DO YOU--?
--YOU'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF MASSACHUSETTS, FOR--

NOW-- DO WE UNDERSTAND ONE ANOTHER--
BLAM!
--AND CAN I ASSUME I HAVE YOUR UNDIVIDED ATTENTION?
I'LL TAKE THAT GRUDGING SILENCE AS A YES.
NOW, LEST YOU ASSUME I AM SOME SORT OF TRAITOR OR TURNCOAT, LET ME DISABUSE YOU OF THAT RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW.
I AM A SPY AND A FIFTH COLUMNIST, AN ESPIONAGE OFFICER IN THE FUHRER'S INTELLIGENCE SERVICE...
...ON DETACHED DUTY TO THE COMMANDANT KNOWN BY THE CODENAME...
...THE RED SKULL.
MIKE?!
I'M AFRAID NOT, JENNIFER...

WHUPWHUPWHUPWHUPWHUPWHUP
...I'M AFRAID NOT.
YOU TRULY ARE A WIDOW, JENNIFER.
YOUR HUSBAND DIED AT THE HANDS OF OUR JAPANESE ALLIES...
...AND I'VE BEEN SURGICALLY ALTERED TO BE HIS TWIN...
...IN ORDER TO ACQUIRE THIS INFORMATION FOR THE RED SKULL.
YOU NAZI BASTARD!
WHUPWHUPWHUPWHUPWHUPWHUP
THAT'S ME IN A NUTSHELL, JENNY.
AND YOU'LL MAKE AS GOOD A SAFE PASSAGE HOSTAGE AS ANYONE--
--NO AMERICAN IN HIS RIGHT MIND WILL SHOOT DOWN THIS AIRCRAFT WITH AN INNOCENT ABOARD.
YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS--
WHUPWHUPWHUPWHUPWHUPWHUP


WHUPWHUPWHUPWHUPWHUPWHUP
THE PRICE WE PAY FOR FREEDOM...
--NOT NOW, YOU WON'T.
LET HER GO, OBERLEUTNANT.
YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATHS OF TOO MANY OF MY COMRADES, CAPTAIN AMERICA...
...IS AN OPEN SOCIETY...

WHUPWHUPWHUPWHUPWHUPWHUP
...I'LL BE AWARDED THE IRON CROSS FOR KILLING YOU.
...IN WHICH SPIES CAN STEAL AN AMERICAN HELICOPTER...
BRATTA BRATTA BRATTA BRATTA
SPANGANNGGKK SPANGG!!
...ORDNANCE FRESH OFF THE PROVING GROUND...

WHUPWHUPWHUPWHUPWHUPWHUPWHUP
JUMP, JENNY--
BRATTA TATTAT TAT
NOW!
WHUPWHUPWHUPWHUPWHUPWHUPWHUP
BRATTA TATTAT TAT
...AND GET AWAY WITH IT...
WHUPWHUPWHUPWHUPWHUPWHUPWHUP
...OR MAYBE NOT.
BRATTA TATTAT TAT
WHUPWHUPWHUPWHUPWHUPWHUPWHUP
IN ALL MY EXPERIENCES IN THE WAR...
...FAR AND AWAY WHAT I REMEMBER MOST FONDLY...
BRATTA TATTAT TAT

...IS THE LOOK ON THE FACE OF ONE OF HITLER'S ARYAN UBERMENSCHEN...
PWHUPWHUPWHUPWHUP
...WHEN HE HIT THE WALL OF AMERICAN RESISTANCE FACE FIRST...
THBRBOOMMMMMMMM!
...AND REALIZED IN HIS FINAL MOMENTS...
...THAT, IN THE WORDS OF THE AMERICAN G.I., THE BEST CITIZEN SOLDIER THE WORLD...
...HE WAS FUBAR.
EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE OKAY.

AND FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH, EVERYTHING WAS.
AT 350,000, FAIR WARNING...
...GOING ONCE...
ONCE WE FINISHED POSING FOR MR. STOCKWELL, JENNY AND I PROMISED TO STAY IN TOUCH...
...BUT I DISAPPEARED ONLY A FEW WEEKS LATER...
...GOING TWICE...
...AND I CAN ONLY HOPE JENNY WENT ON TO LIVE A HAPPY AND FULFILLED LIFE.
...SOLD TO THE LUCKY GENTLEMAN ■ THE NAVY BLAZER.
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JENNY--?
THAT'S MY NAME, BUT DO I KNOW YOU?
SORRY-- YOU LOOK LIKE SOMEONE I USED TO KNOW.
THAT'S MY GRANDMOTHER IN THE PAINTING...
...I'M NAMED AFTER HER.
YEP, SORRY TO SAY...
SO YOU'RE THE SELLER?
...IN THIS ECONOMY, IT BECAME TOO VALUABLE JUST TO KEEP AS A FAMILY HEIRLOOM.
TRUTH IS, I KNEW YOUR GRANDMOTHER.
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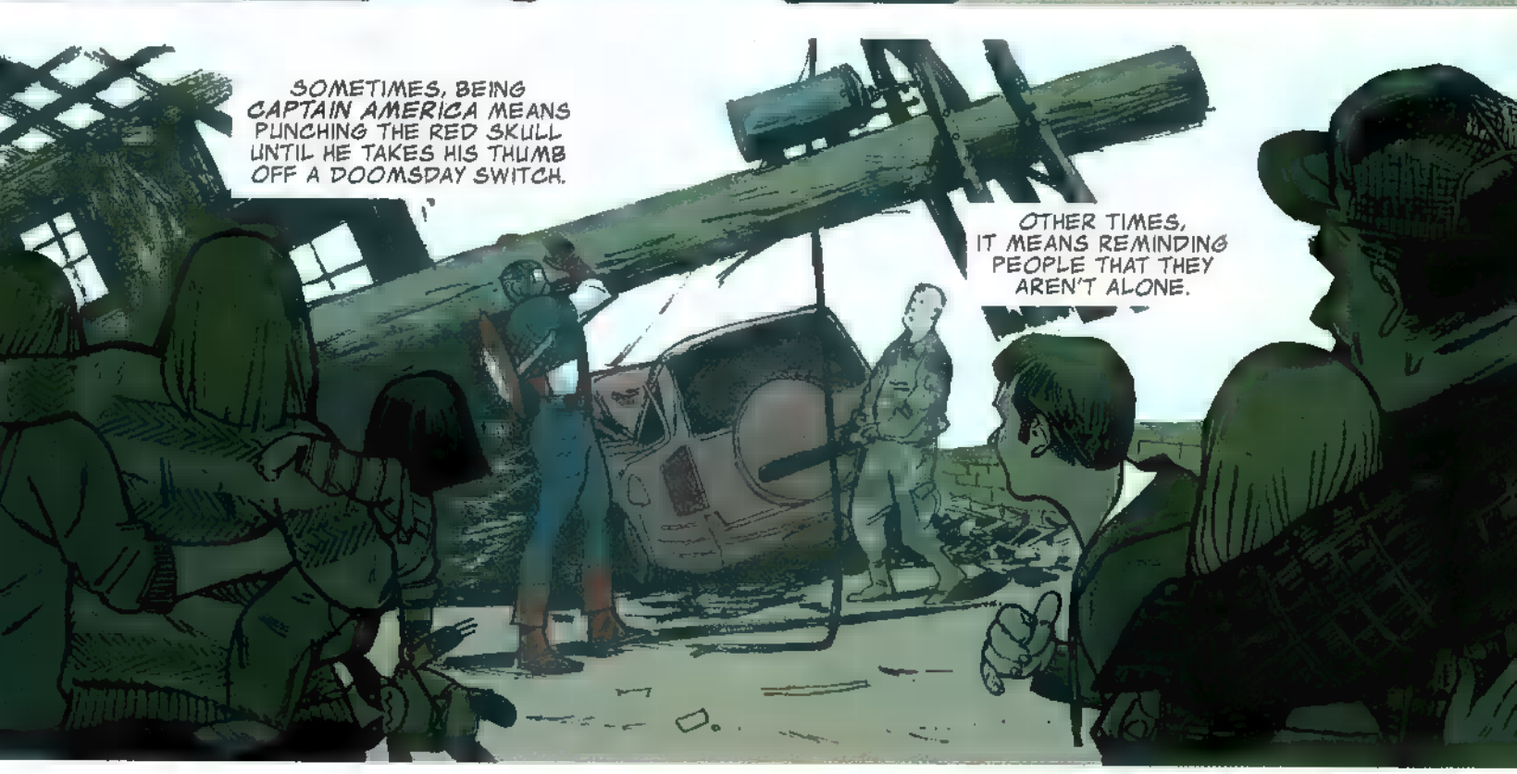
WERE YOU ONE OF HER STUDENTS?
NOT EXACTLY...
SHE'S BEEN GONE FOR QUITE SOME TIME...
...YOU MUST'VE BEEN INCREDIBLY YOUNG WHEN YOU KNEW HER.
YOUNGER THAN YOU'LL EVER KNOW...
...YOUNGER THAN YOU'D EVER IMAGINE.
The End

REDFIELD, OKLAHOMA.
I CAN'T SAY I'VE VISITED THE TOWN BEFORE, BUT I'VE SEEN ITS LIKE MANY TIMES...
ALTHOUGH NOT IN A GOOD, LONG WHILE.
LAST NIGHT, A REPORTED TWELVE TORNADOES TOUCHED DOWN IN AND AROUND REDFIELD.
IN SOME PLACES, THE PICTURESQUE QUALITY OF THE COMMUNITY SHINES THROUGH...A GLIMPSE OF A BYGONE ERA. IN OTHERS, THE DEVASTATION IS TERRIBLE.
JACK JOE'S
NORMAN ROCKWELL VERSUS MOTHER NATURE.

THE NATIONAL GUARD MOBILIZED. THE TOWNSFOLK PULLED TOGETHER TO HELP ONE ANOTHER.
MY ROLE IS TO PITCH IN WHERE I CAN...TO SHOULDER SOME OF THE BURDEN... TO BE *SEEN*.


SOMETIMES, BEING *CAPTAIN AMERICA* MEANS PUNCHING THE RED SKULL UNTIL HE TAKES HIS THUMB OFF A DOOMSDAY SWITCH.
OTHER TIMES, IT MEANS REMINDING PEOPLE THAT THEY AREN'T ALONE.

EXCUSE ME...CAPTAIN, SIR...

ME AND SOME FRIENDS, SIR, WE'RE HEADING OUT ALONG ROUTE 9. THAT'S WHERE THE WORST OF THE STORMS HIT.
WE WANTED TO SEE IF YOU'D LIKE TO COME WITH US, SIR.

THAT'S ENOUGH "SIRS" FOR A ROOM FULL OF THE TOP BRASS.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME, SON?
NATE.

WELL, NATE, IT LOOKS LIKE THE GUARD HAS THINGS IN HAND HERE.
LEAD THE WAY.

THIS IS LISA, DARLA AND JIMMY.
GUYS, THIS IS CAPTAIN AMERICA.
PLEASED TO MEET YOU ALL.

WHOA

I HEAR THERE WERE STORMS LIKE THIS BACK IN THE '80S, TOO.
CAN'T IMAGINE THEY WERE THIS BAD, THOUGH.

IT'S THE PRIVILEGE OF YOUTH TO BELIEVE THEY'VE GOT IT WORSE THAN THE GENERATIONS THAT CAME BEFORE THEM.

IT'S NOT AN OLD SOLDIER'S PLACE TO CORRECT THEM...
THAT'S OLD MAN HANEY'S PLACE JUST UP AHEAD.

LOOKS LIKE ONE OF THE FUNNELS TORE RIGHT THROUGH HERE.
HOPE EVERYBODY'S ALL RIGHT.

MR. HANEY AND HIS KIDS PRETTY MUCH KEEP TO THEMSELVES.
MY FOLKS ALWAYS WARNED ME TO STAY OFF HIS LAND.

THEY SAID I OUGHT TO RESPECT AN OLD MAN'S PRIVACY.
GUESS THIS IS AN EXCEPTION TO THE RULE.

BE CAREFUL-- ALL OF YOU.
LET'S FIND THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE HERE...
BUT BE SAFE WHILE YOU'RE AT IT.

HARD TO BELIEVE THE WIND COULD DO ALL THIS.
WHAT IN THE WORLD?

STORM SHELTER?
MAYBE...
MORE LIKE A FALLOUT SHELTER FROM THE LOOKS OF IT.

I'LL CHECK IT OUT.
KRRKK

WHY DON'T YOU WAIT HERE WHILE I HAVE A LOOK?
WHATEVER YOU SAY.
HELLO?
ANYONE DOWN HERE?
IT'S STILL DOWN BELOW, LIKE A TOMB.
AND I KNOW--IN THE PIT OF MY STOMACH--THAT WHATEVER I FIND ISN'T GOING TO BE GOOD.

ADVANCED IDEA MECHANICS.
THE POSTER CHILDREN FOR SUPER-SCIENCE GONE WRONG.
THE PLACE HASN'T SEEN USE IN TEN YEARS AT LEAST. THIS MUST BE SOME SORT OF ANNEX LAB...
A.I.M.'S PLAY AT BUSINESS CONTINUITY PLANNING. THEY GET ROUTED FROM ONE HIDING PLACE, AND THEY SCURRY OFF TO SET UP SHOP IN ANOTHER.
PING
PING
PING
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PING
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PING
PING
BUT IF I KNOW A.I.M.--AND I DO--THEY'LL HAVE CONTINGENCIES IN PLACE IN CASE OF A SECURITY BREACH.
BEST BET IS TO GET THE KIDS OUT OF HERE... WARN THE AUTHORITIES... THE TOWNSFOLK...
INTRUDER
METAL
INTRUDER!!
ARACHNID
INTRUDER!!
INITIATE:
DESIGNED FOR
INTRUDER!!
AGGRESSIVE
INTRUDER!!
KILLING
INTRUDER
PING
PING
PING
JUST HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, MISTER.

I'D CALCULATE THAT YOU'VE SEEN JUST A LITTLE TOO MUCH.
MR. HANEY? W-WHAT'S GOING ON?
YOU HUSH UP, BOY.
THIS IS PRIVATE PROPERTY... AND YOUR MAMA AND DADDY SHOULDA TAUGHT YOU BETTER THAN TO BRING OUTSIDERS HERE.

WHAT IS THIS? ARE YOU SOME SORT OF DEEP COVER A.I.M. OPERATIVE?
OR ARE YOU JUST SOME FOOL WHO LET THEM BUILD ONE OF THEIR MADHOUSES UNDER HIS FARM?

WEARING THOSE STARS AND STRIPES DON'T GIVE YOU THE RIGHT TO JUDGE ME.
WHY DON'T YOU JUST MOVE OVER YONDER WITH THOSE KIDS, HUH?

YOU TELL ME--WHAT WERE WE SUPPOSED TO DO WHEN THE FACTORY SHUT DOWN AND ALMOST EVERY LIVING SOUL IN REDFIELD WAS SUDDENLY OUT OF A JOB?
IT WAS THEM FOLKS FROM A.I.M. WHO KEPT US AFLOAT WHEN NOBODY ELSE WOULD...
THEY SAVED OUR TOWN...

WHICH IS A DAMN SIGHT MORE THAN ANY OF YOU "SUPER HEROES" DID FOR US. WHERE WERE YOU WHEN THIS FARM... WHEN THIS WHOLE COMMUNITY... WAS ABOUT TO GO BELLY-UP?

I DON'T BELITTLE ANYONE'S HARDSHIPS, BUT I DO HOLD THEM ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE CHOICES THEY MAKE.
MAYBE YOU DIDN'T REALIZE WHO YOU WERE DEALING WITH, BUT--
WE UNDERSTOOD THE ARRANGEMENT WE WERE MAKING, AND WE KNEW WELL AND GOOD WHO WE WERE DEALING WITH.
THE TOWN COUNCIL THOUGHT LONG AND HARD ABOUT THE DECISION, BUT IN THE END, WE MADE THE ONLY DECISION THAT KEPT REDFIELD FROM BECOMING A GHOST TOWN!
YOU CAN'T SAVE YOURSELF BY MAKING A DEAL WITH THE DEVIL.
FOLKS AROUND THESE PARTS KNOW HOW TO KEEP A SECRET IF IT MEANS A BETTER LIFE FOR OUR CHILDREN.
SPIT
AND IT LOOKS LIKE THESE KIDS ARE GONNA HAVE TO KEEP A SECRET OF THEIR OWN--
CHAK CHAK CHAK
HA@!!
CHAK
CHAK
CHAK
CHAK
CHAK

CHAK CHAK CHAK
YEEAAGGH!
GET IT OFF! GET IT OFF!
OFF! GET IT OFF!
SOMETIMES, BEING CAPTAIN AMERICA IS ABOUT SETTING AN EXAMPLE.
AND SOMETIMES IT MEANS YOU GO RIGHT BACK TO SMASHING A FEW ROBOTS.
CHAK
WHATEVER THESE THINGS ARE, THEY MUST HAVE BEEN PROGRAMMED TO "STERILIZE" THE LAB IN CASE OF A BREACH.
IN A STRANGE WAY, THOUGH, I CAN ALMOST RELATE TO THEM.

CHAK
CHAK
LOCKED AWAY... SLEEPING...ONLY TO AWAKEN IN A WORLD THEY DON'T RECOGNIZE OR UNDERSTAND.
OF COURSE-- EMPATHY OR NO-- I'M GOING TO BUST THEM UP JUST THE SAME.
CAPTAIN! LOOK OUT!
ARRGH!

NEAR AS I CAN TELL, THE KIDS--NATE AND THE OTHERS--ARE CLUELESS ABOUT WHATEVER BARGAINS THEIR PARENTS MADE.
CHAK
CHAK CHAK
I'VE JUST GOT TO MAKE SURE THEY DON'T PAY TOO HEAVY A PRICE FOR THOSE MISTAKES.

THIS IS ABOUT MORE THAN CRACKING SKULLS AND TAKING NAMES.

THIS IS ABOUT PRESSING ON... NO MATTER HOW TREACHEROUS THE PATH...

...ABOUT SEIZING THE REINS WHEN YOUR WORLD SPIRALS OUT OF CONTROL...
KILLZ-- ZZT --
ZZT-KILLZ-ZZTT--

STAMP

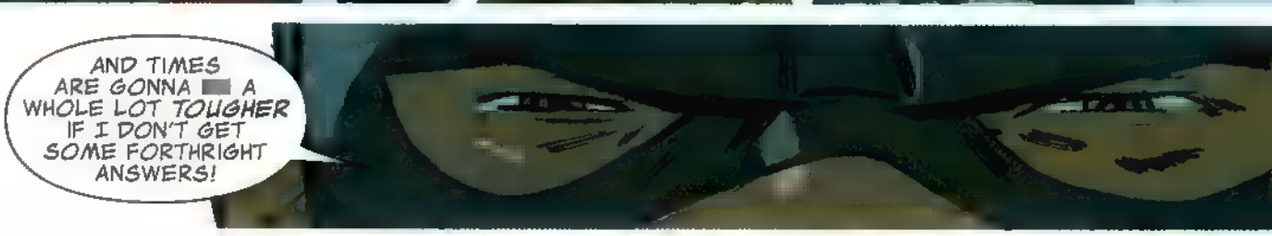
...ABOUT COMING THROUGH THE STORM... MAYBE WORSE FOR WEAR BUT STANDING PROUD.

ARE...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
NATE...I WANT YOU TO ROUND EVERYONE UP...TAKE THEM BACK TO TOWN.

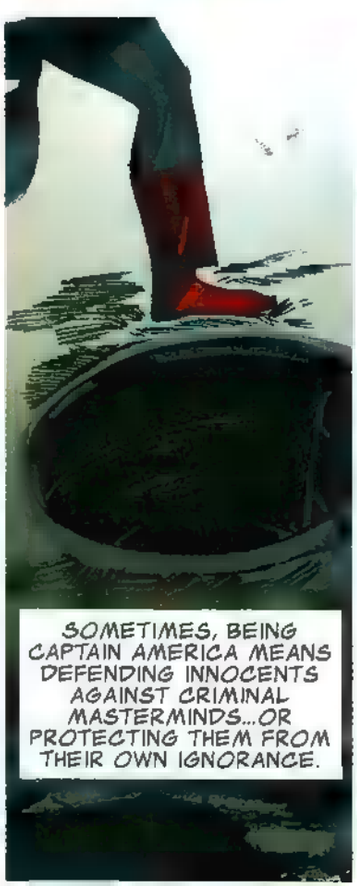
I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY PEOPLE KNEW ABOUT THIS...HOW MANY OF THESE SNAKE-PITS I'LL FIND IF I START DIGGING...
BUT MAKE SURE EVERYONE KNOWS THAT I WILL BE DIGGING.

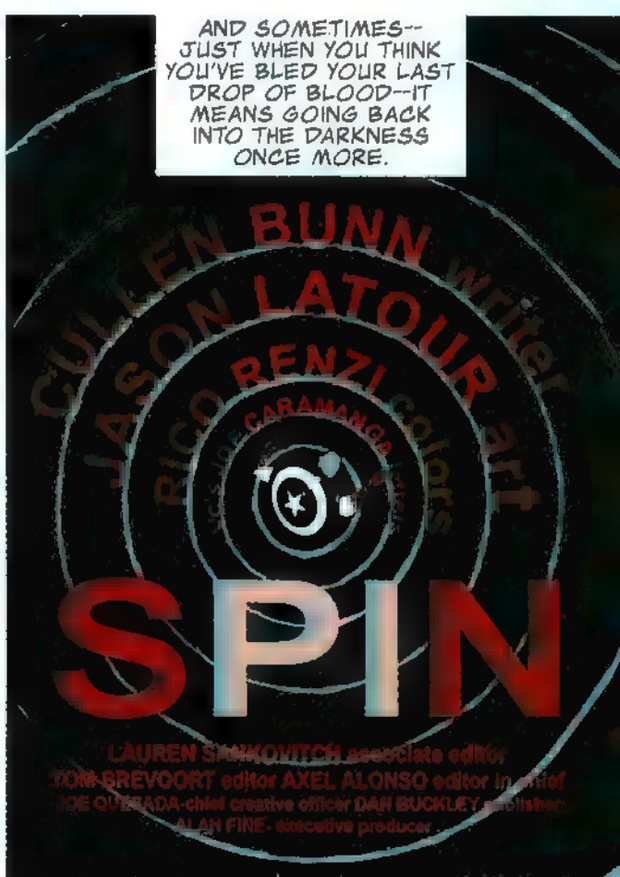
YOU DON'T KNOW HOW BAD IT WAS. YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND--

I UNDERSTAND THAT TIMES WERE TOUGH. TIMES ARE TOUGH.
BUT I'LL HAVE SOME QUESTIONS WHEN I GET BACK TO TOWN.


AND TIMES ARE GONNA [redacted] A WHOLE LOT TOUGHER IF I DON'T GET SOME FORTHRIGHT ANSWERS!

GET ME?
Y-YESSIR.


SOMETIMES, BEING CAPTAIN AMERICA MEANS DEFENDING INNOCENTS AGAINST CRIMINAL MASTERMINDS...OR PROTECTING THEM FROM THEIR OWN IGNORANCE.


AND SOMETIMES--JUST WHEN YOU THINK YOU'VE BLED YOUR LAST DROP OF BLOOD--IT MEANS GOING BACK INTO THE DARKNESS ONCE MORE.
CULLEN BUNN writer
JASON LATOUR art
RICO RENZI colors
SPIN
LAUREN SANKOVITCH associate editor
VAN LENTE editor AXEL ALONSO editor in chief
JOE QUESADA chief creative officer DAN BUCKLEY publisher
ALAN FINE executive producer

Operation: Tooth Fairy

by [illegible]

Lee Loughridge - Color
VC's Joe Caramagna - Letters
Lauren Sankovitch - Assoc. Editor
Tom Brevoort - Editor
Axel Alonso - Editor In Chief

Constanta, Romania
Field Report C12/842-A from Invaders Field Liaison; Captain Dawson.
The Soldier led the assault on the Castle. During which time, Fire and Fish were still engaged on their part of the mission.

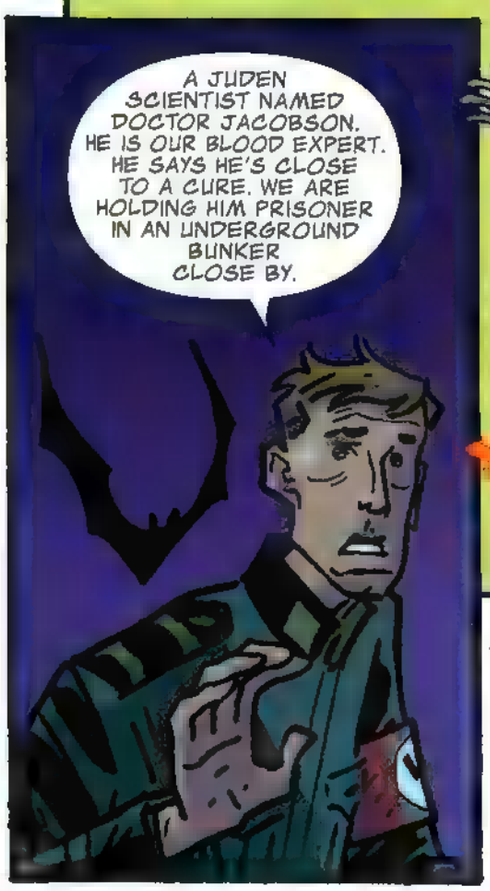
It was the Soldier's decision to attack the Castle with only the Boy Scout as backup, although it is possible that by this point his judgment was clouded.
KRRRAACKK!

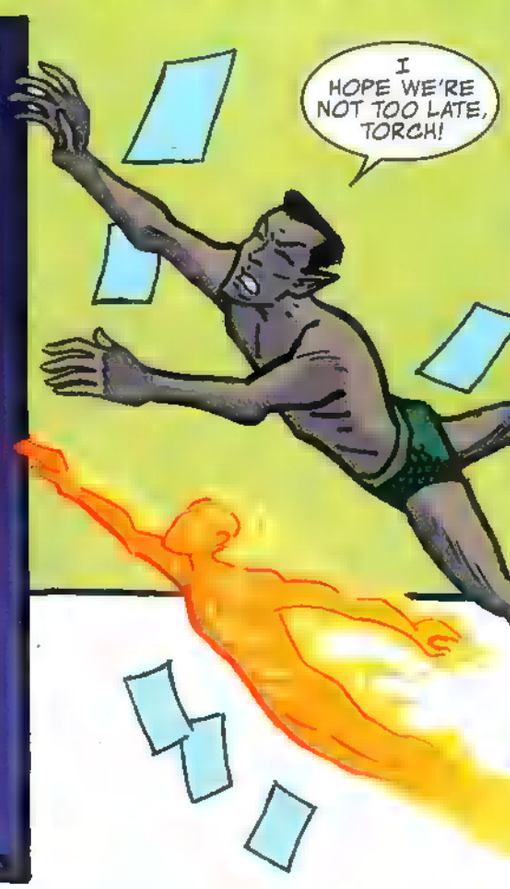
Despite showing signs of battle fatigue, the Soldier was able to overcome the small army that was stationed in the castle.
VENOM'S TAKING HOLD... HEAD SPINNING... FEELING OF VERTIGO...
WHAT'S THAT, CAPTAIN?
NO BOMBASTIC VICTORY SPEECH?
It was at this point the Nazi Agent Baron Blood revealed himself.
OR DO YOU REALIZE THAT TONIGHT YOU HAVE FINALLY LOST?

Viktor Oberheuser.
SS Captain.

Headed Nazi "Human Experimentation Program." A series of medical tests used on selected prisoners designed to aid the German military in combat situations.

At approximately 2017 hrs Captain Oberheuser was captured by Fire and Fish. Standard interrogation tactics were used on the prisoner.
GOTT IN HIMMEL!! I'M TELLING YOU THE TRUTH! THE BARON NO LONGER WORKS WITH US. HE COULDN'T BE TRUSTED. THAT'S WHY WE ARE WORKING ON A CURE TO HIS DEADLY VENOM.


A JUDEN SCIENTIST NAMED DOCTOR JACOBSON. HE IS OUR BLOOD EXPERT. HE SAYS HE'S CLOSE TO A CURE. WE ARE HOLDING HIM PRISONER IN AN UNDERGROUND BUNKER CLOSE BY.



GO ON, AMERICAN! MAKE YOUR PATHETIC PLAY! FOR BARON BLOOD WILL SHOW YOU A TYPE OF CRUELTY YOU COULD NOT BEGIN TO IMAGINE.
SAVE YOUR THEATRICAL VICTORY SPEECHES FOR THE STAGE, BLOOD!
YOUR EFFORTS ARE FUTILE! YOUR MOVES ARE LABORED!
CLINK!
CAP, DON'T!!
AND TONIGHT I SHALL DRINK DEEP FROM THE CHALICE OF VICTORY!

Reports confirm that, earlier that evening, the Soldier had first confronted Blood and had engaged in a skirmish...

This Nazi bogeyman is said to possess superhuman strength and have the ability to control minds.

Goose-stepping propaganda.

The idea that Blood is anything but a highly trained Nazi operative is just another desperate intimidation tactic.

A way to instill fear and undermine the morale of the troops.

But it takes more to shake up the red, white and blue of American determination than a fool in a childish bat-suit.

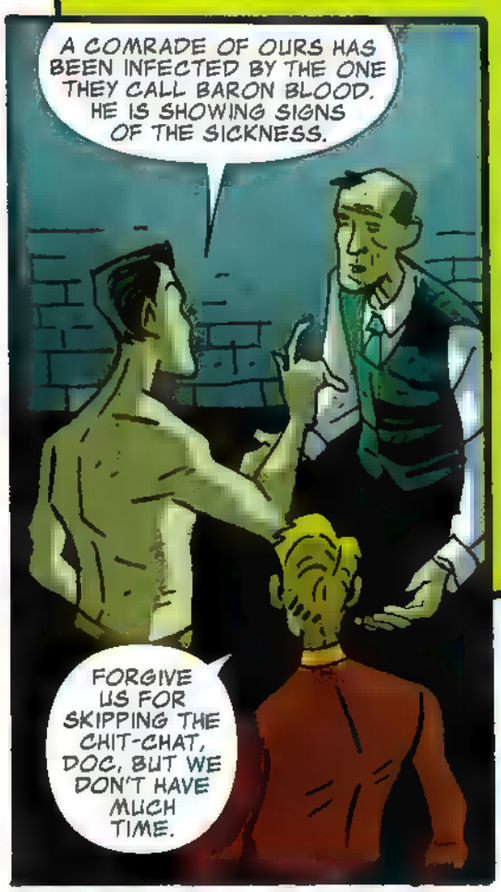
Unfortunately, a stray shell caused an explosion before the Soldier was able to apprehend the so-called vampire...
...and he was momentarily rendered unconscious by the blast.
Giving Blood enough time to infect the Soldier with his poison.

Dr. Leo Jacobson.

Polish scientist
and Jewish survivor
of the Warsaw ghetto.

Imprisoned by the Gestapo, Jacobson
was sent to work at the infamous
laboratories; converted research
facilities used to develop new
poisonous gases and chemical weapons.

DO NOT BE AFRAID.
WHAT DO YOU WANT? PLEASE DON'T HURT ME...
WE ARE FRIENDS. I AM PRINCE NAMOR OF ATLANTIS AND I GIVE YOU MY SOLEMN WORD, YOU SHALL NOT BE HARMED.


A COMRADE OF OURS HAS BEEN INFECTED BY THE ONE THEY CALL BARON BLOOD. HE IS SHOWING SIGNS OF THE SICKNESS.
FORGIVE US FOR SKIPPING THE CHIT-CHAT, DOC, BUT WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME.

WE HAVE HEARD YOU ARE WORKING ON A CURE.
I'M SORRY ABOUT YOUR FRIEND. SADLY, THERE IS NO CURE. NOTHING WE DID COULD FIGHT THE VIRUS' POWERFUL STRAIN.

THE ONLY SUCCESS WE HAD WAS INJECTING THE BARON'S OWN BLOOD INTO THE INFECTED VICTIM. HOWEVER, IT DIDN'T ALWAYS WORK. AND ■ SOME CASES RESULTED IN A SLOW AND AGONIZING DEMISE.

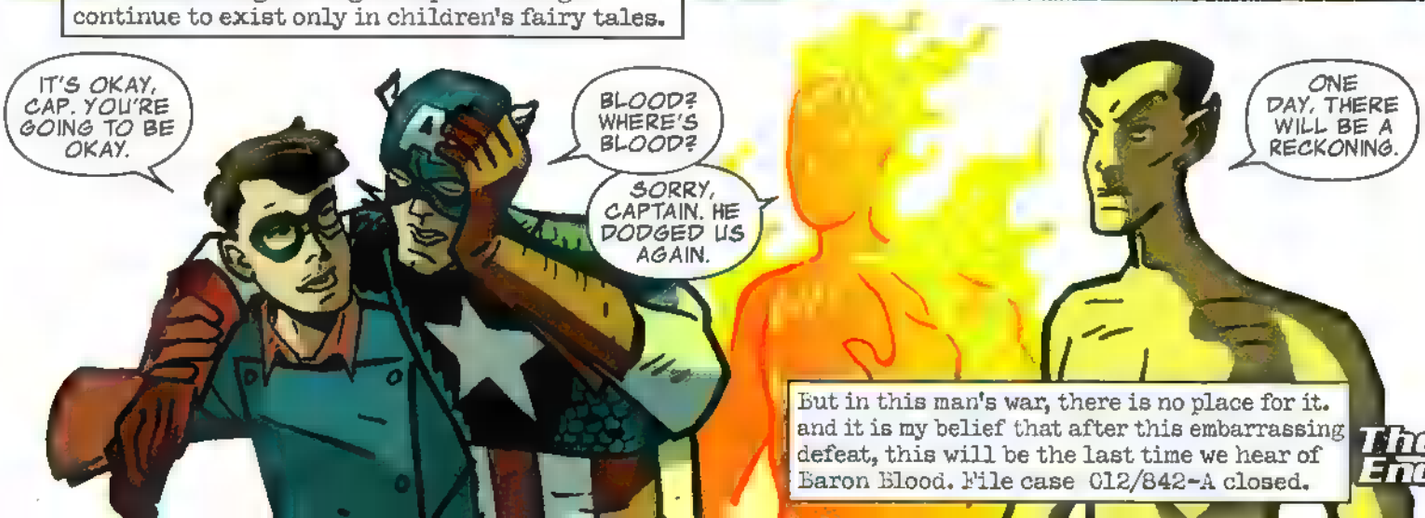
SCHNAPPT SIE!
At 2230 hrs, intel is sketchy. Boy Scout was engaged in hand-to-hand combat with a couple of Krauts. Outnumbered, Boy Scout was able to fend off his Nazi attackers.
OH, GOD. CAP...
YOU HAVE LIVED THE LIFE OF THE BRAVE SOLDIER, CAPTAIN...

YOU WANTED TO DIE A HERO... BUT TONIGHT YOU DIE A VAMPIRE!
At this time, Soldier engaged in a deadly close quarter battle with Baron Blood.
A
A
Although reports are conflicting, Soldier was able to remain cool and collected, using the combat maneuvers he was taught by America's finest.

HSSSSS--
DON'T--

BUT HE'S INGESTED THE BLOOD OF THE DEMON AND IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S TAKEN EFFECT. CAPTAIN AMERICA SHALL LIVE TO FIGHT ANOTHER DAY.

Baron Blood managed to elude capture. However it is with confidence I conclude vampires, ghosts and other things that go bump in the night continue to exist only in children's fairy tales.



But in this man's war, there is no place for it. and it is my belief that after this embarrassing defeat, this will be the last time we hear of Baron Blood. File case 012/842-A closed.

The End

VERY NICE...
U.S. ARMY

IF NOT A BIT... SINGULAR IN VISION.
UM, YES, WELL...
I'VE ALWAYS HAD SUCH A, AH... GREAT RESPONSE TO MY CAPTAIN AMERICA ARTWORK. SO I FIGURED, WHAT THE HECK...WHY NOT DO AN EXHIBIT, YOU KNOW?
UM...I UNDERSTAND YOU'RE SOMETHING OF AN ARTIST YOURSELF, MR. HEIDLER. I WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOUR WORK ONE OF THESE--
HMPH.
WHIP!

WELL, OKAY, THEN...
I'M SORRY I WASTED YOUR TIME.
NOW, NOW, I DIDN'T SAY NO.
LOOK, I'LL ADMIT, THIS...IS NOT MY SORT OF THING. IF IT WAS ANY MORE CHEESY, IT WOULD BE GORGONZOLA.
BUT THAT BEING SAID...
CAPTAIN AMERICA IS HOT RIGHT NOW. POPULAR. COMING BACK FROM THE DEAD WILL DO THAT TO A FELLOW.
AND HELL, IF I'M HONEST ABOUT IT, HE'S NEVER REALLY NOT BEEN POPULAR. NEVER REALLY GONE OUT OF STYLE. WHETHER IT'S PHOTOS OF HIM, MEMORABILIA-- AND YES, EVEN ARTWORK-- THE UNWASHED MASSES TEND TO EAT IT UP WITH A SPOON.
CALL IT OUR NEED FOR NOSTALGIA. A NEED FOR "SIMPLER TIMES." CALL IT OUR NEED FOR A HERO...
WHATEVER YOU WANT TO CALL IT, AS LONG AS IT PAYS THE BILLS, I CALL IT A-OK BY ME.

PLUS, THE WHOLE "BLOND HAIR, BLUE EYES" THING YOU'VE GOT GOING ON DOESN'T EXACTLY HURT, EITHER.
YOU'D BE SURPRISED AT HOW MANY OF MY CLIENTS ARE WOMEN.
OR GAY MEN.
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THE OPPORTUNITY, MR. HEIDLER. I--
EXCUSE ME A MOMENT.
WAITRESS!
I ASKED FOR A WIENER EISKAFFEE...AND WHATEVER THIS IS, IT'S NOT THAT.
I'M SO SORRY, SIR. WE'LL GET YOU ANOTHER RIGHT AWAY.
MAKE IT TO GO.
PFFT. SERVES ME RIGHT, THINKING HER KIND COULD AT LEAST LEARN TO MAKE A DECENT CUP OF COFFEE.
YES. HER KIND. YOU KNOW...
TEENAGERS.
HER KIND?
OF COURSE.

WELL, I GUESS THAT'S IT. I'LL BE IN TOUCH ABOUT THE EXHIBIT.
I'M THINKING JULY...IF I'M GOING TO DO THIS, I MIGHT AS WELL GO ALL THE WAY AND HAVE IT AROUND THE 4TH...
WHATEVER YOU THINK BEST, MR. HEIDLER. AND THANK YOU AGAIN.
HEIDLER GALL
135 W 50th Street
Contact Edmund Heidler
212-555-7589
heidler@gmail.com

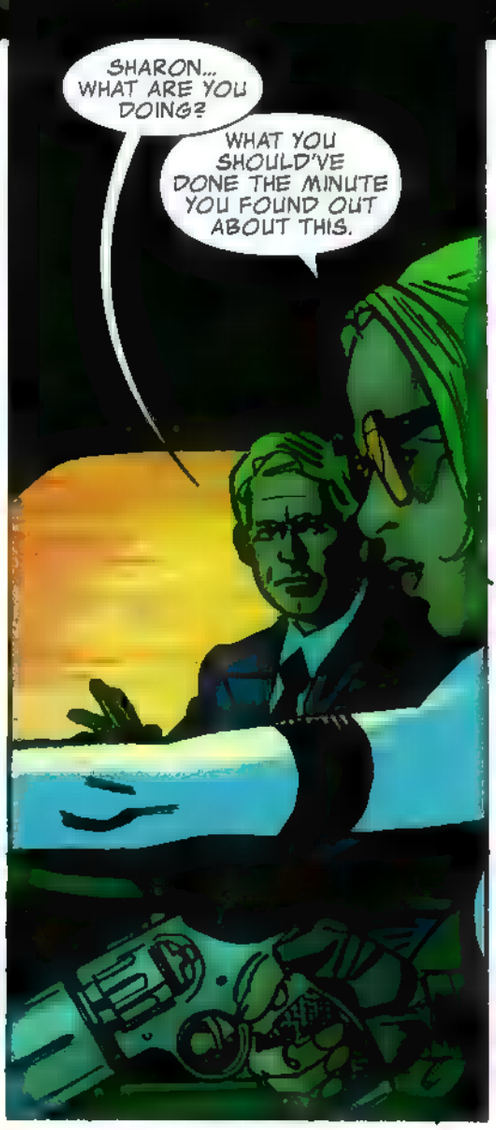
DID YOU GET IT?
MIGHT HELP IF I KNEW WHAT I WAS LOOKING FOR, STEVE, BUT...YES.
EVERY BIT OF YOUR CONVERSATION WAS RECORDED. AND EVERYTHING SEEMED PERFECTLY NORMAL FROM WHERE I SAT.
THEN THERE'S HIS FILE...
EDMUND HEIDLER. ART DEALER. MOVED TO NYC ABOUT THREE YEARS AGO.
NOT A SINGLE PRIOR. NOT EVEN SO MUCH AS A PARKING TICKET.
SO AT WHAT POINT DO YOU FILL ME IN ON WHAT WE'RE DOING HERE? WHAT IS THIS? WHY ARE WE LOOKING INTO THIS GUY?
PROBABLY EASIEST JUST TO SHOW YOU.
OH, MY GOD...

SCREEECH!!
DRAW TOOL
NAME: EDMUND HEIDLER
ADDRESS: 207 21ST STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10010
OCCUPATION: GALLERY OWNER
EDMUND HEIDLER IS...ADOLF HITLER?!

"A CLONE OF ADOLF HITLER, ACTUALLY.
"ONE OF THE HATE-MONGER'S SPARE BODIES. OVER THE YEARS, WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO TRACK DOWN MOST OF THEM.
"BUT THIS ONE APPARENTLY SLIPPED THROUGH THE GRID AFTER THE BASE HE WAS GROWN AT WAS DESTROYED...
"THE CATCH IS, ALL OF THIS WOULD BE NEWS TO HEIDLER. BECAUSE HIS PROGRAMMING WAS NEVER COMPLETED...
"HE HAS NO IDEA WHO OR WHAT HE REALLY IS."

AND WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME ABOUT THIS SOONER?
BECAUSE I KNEW WHAT YOUR REACTION WOULD BE.
DAMN RIGHT YOU DID.

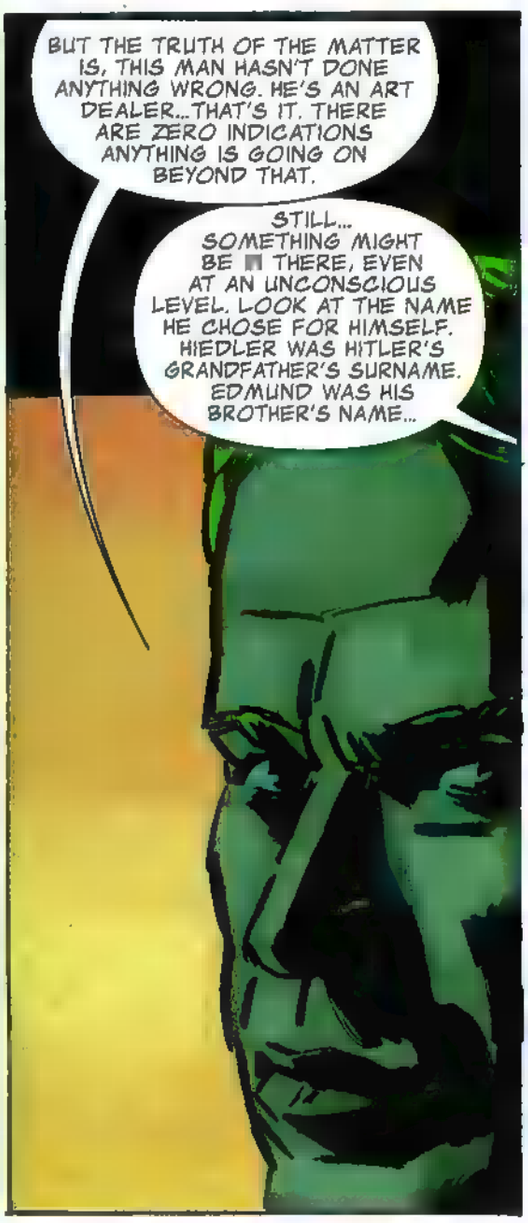
I WANTED TO MEET HIM FIRST, SEE WHAT HE WAS LIKE, WHAT HE KNEW.
IT'S WHY I SHOWED HIM ALL THOSE CAPTAIN AMERICA PAINTINGS. ALL THOSE IMAGES OF THE WAR. WANTED TO GAUGE HIS REACTION TO--
SCREEECH


SHARON... WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WHAT YOU SHOULD'VE DONE THE MINUTE YOU FOUND OUT ABOUT THIS.

SHARON... STOP THE CAR.
STOP THE CAR, I SAID.
THAT'S AN ORDER, SOLDIER!
SKREECH

HITLER, STEVE.
DEATH CAMPS. HUMAN EXPERIMENTATION. GENOCIDE.
LAMPSHADES MADE OF HUMAN SKIN!
HITLER!

YOU THINK I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE SAYING, SHARON?
JUST REMEMBER WHO YOU'RE TALKING TO.


BUT THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER IS, THIS MAN HASN'T DONE ANYTHING WRONG. HE'S AN ART DEALER...THAT'S IT. THERE ARE ZERO INDICATIONS ANYTHING IS GOING ON BEYOND THAT.
STILL... SOMETHING MIGHT BE [redacted] THERE, EVEN AT AN UNCONSCIOUS LEVEL. LOOK AT THE NAME HE CHOSE FOR HIMSELF. HIEDLER WAS HITLER'S GRANDFATHER'S SURNAME. EDMUND WAS HIS BROTHER'S NAME...

SO WE KEEP AN EYE ON HIM, SHARON.
BUT I WON'T CONDEMN A MAN FOR WHAT *MIGHT* LIE IN HIS MIND. I WON'T CONDEMN A MAN FOR WHAT HE *MIGHT* DO.
EVEN HITLER.

YOU'RE THE BOSS, STEVE...

"...I JUST HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT. FOR ALL OUR SAKES."
Vienna
SKAFFEE
Johnnie Hester
I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT, EVA. IT'S BEEN ON MY MIND SINCE I SAW IT.
CAN'T STOP PAINTING IT.
CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT IT.

THE EXHIBIT

FRANK TIERI
writer

PAUL AZACETA
art

MATT WILSON
colorist

VC's JOE CARAMAGNA
letterer

SANKOVITCH
BREVOORT
ALONSO
edits

The End

June, 1944
IT'S BEEN THE SAME STORY FOR THE LAST THREE DAYS.
UNION JACK AND I WERE SUPPOSED TO RENDEZVOUS WITH THE 82ND AIRBORNE, WORKING WITH THEM TO SECURE AND HOLD THE TOWN OF CHANSON IN PREPARATION FOR THE ALLIED ADVANCE FROM THE BEACHHEAD.
BUT THE 82ND MISSED THE DROP, LEAVING US TO TAKE THE TOWN.
THAT WAS THE EASY PART. WE DID IT IN A DAY.
DO YOU HAVE A VIEW?
YEAH...
THE CHALLENGE HAS BEEN HOLDING ON TO IT.
CHANSON WAS ABANDONED BY THE FRENCH OVER A YEAR AGO WHEN THE GERMANS BEGAN TO FORTIFY IT.
...IT LOOKS PROMISING.
IT'S A CROSSROADS--ARMOR FROM OMAHA AND GOLD CAN LINK UP AND MOVE INLAND.
BUT WHAT MAKES THE TOWN TRULY VALUABLE IS DOWNTOWN--THE BRIDGE THAT CROSSES THE VERRE RIVER IS THE ONLY ONE FOR TWENTY MILES.
BOMBING RUNS HIT THE TOWN A DAY BEFORE WE GOT HERE, DRIVING MOST OF THE GERMANS TO THE TREES.
BUT OVER THE LAST TWO DAYS, THEY'VE STARTED MOUNTING ATTACKS TO RETAKE THE AREA.
THE TIGER TOOK THE BAIT?
COMING UP THE CENTER, WITH A DOZEN OUT FRONT.
THEN THERE'S HOPE.
BRACKA BRACKA BRACKA

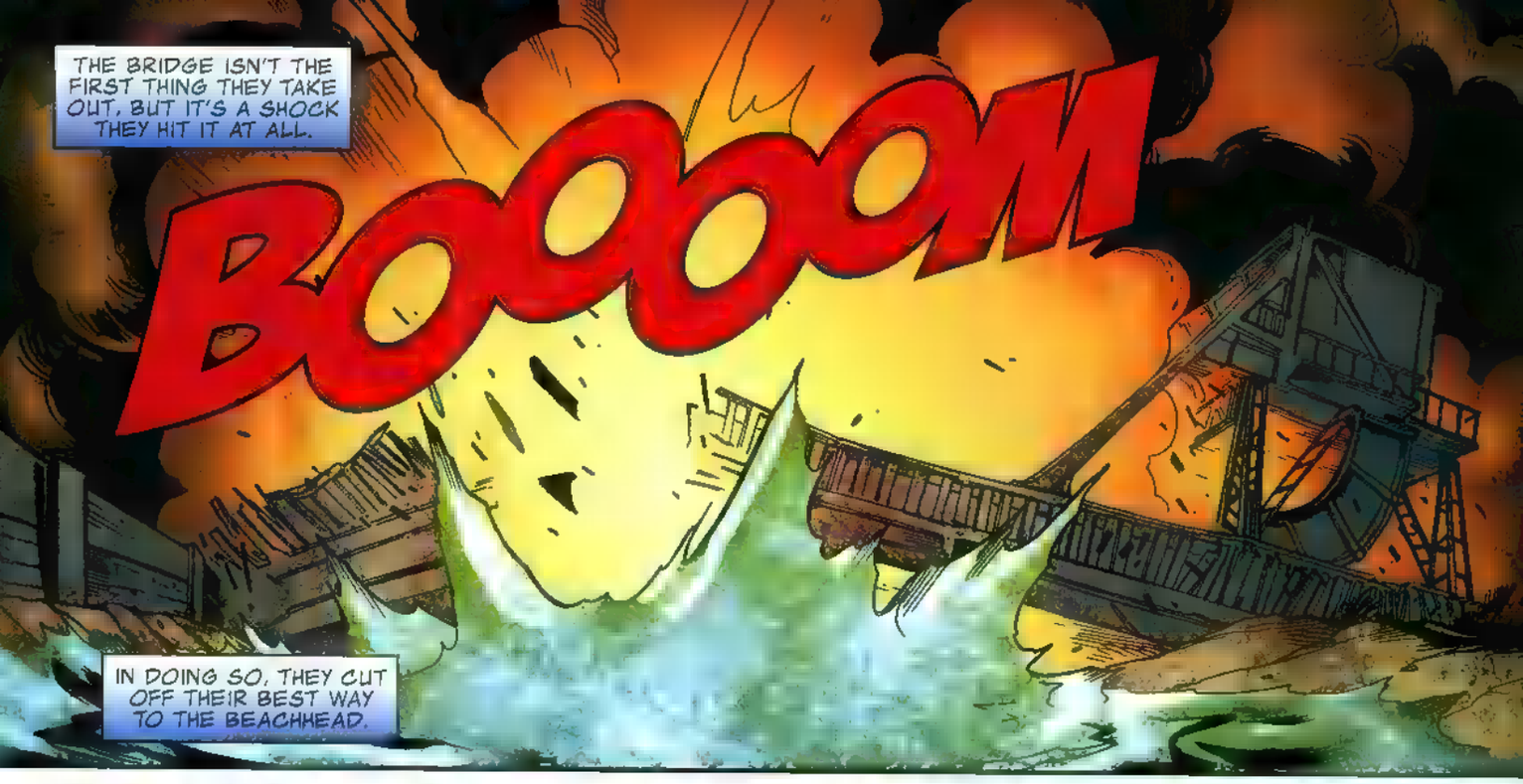
CAPTAIN AMERICA & UNION JACK in CROSSFIRE

Writers: Kyle Higgins & Alec Siegel
Artist: Pepe Larraz
Color Artist: Chris Sotomayor
Letterer: VC's Joe Caramagna
Edits: Sankovitch, Brevoort & Alonso

THWAK
NOW!
PTK!
BOOOOOOOOOM!

HM. NOT TOO TERRIBLE AT ALL...
WHAT'S LEFT OF THE TIGER TANK BOTTLES UP THE GERMANS' ONLY ROAD IN FROM THE SOUTHWEST.
IT'S A BIG WIN, IN WHAT SHOULD BE AN "IMPOSSIBLE" MISSION--TWO MEN HOLDING A BRIDGE FROM AN ARMY OF KRAUTS.
BUT THEN AGAIN...
THESE ARE THE KINDS OF MISSIONS WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE BUILT FOR.

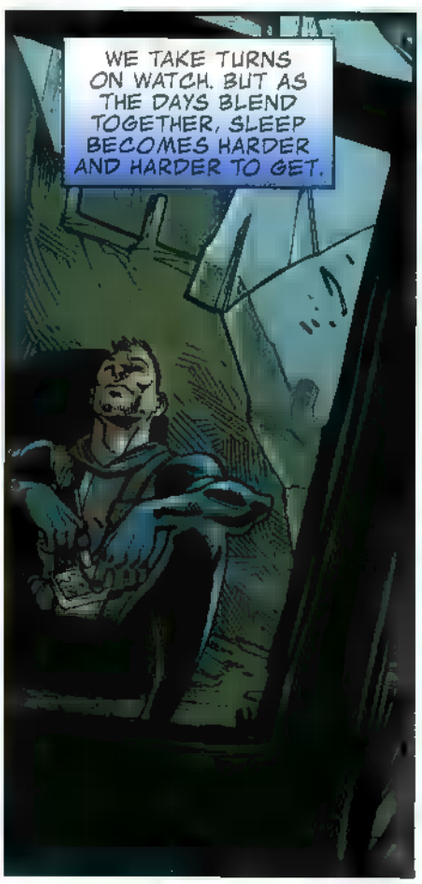
THE NEXT TWO DAYS ARE QUIET. NO SIGN OF TROOP MOVEMENT AT ALL.
WE WONDER OUT LOUD IF THEY MIGHT BE FALLING BACK AS THE ALLIES MARCH CLOSER, MAYBE EVEN RETREATING BECAUSE "THE FLAGS" ARE HERE.
BUT WE'RE NOT THAT LUCKY.
TREE LINE. TWO HUNDRED YARDS.
SO IT'S BLOODY ARTILLERY THEN. GONNA TRY AN' DRIVE US OUT...
AND THAT'S WHEN THINGS GET INTERESTING.


THE BRIDGE ISN'T THE FIRST THING THEY TAKE OUT, BUT IT'S A SHOCK THEY HIT IT AT ALL.
BOOOOM
IN DOING SO, THEY CUT OFF THEIR BEST WAY TO THE BEACHHEAD.

BUT ALSO, OUR WAY OUT.
ALL OF A SUDDEN, WE'RE NOT HOLDING A TOWN...WE'RE HOLED UP IN ONE.

WE'RE FORCED TO MOVE CONSTANTLY AS THE GERMANS CONTINUE THEIR ARTILLERY CAMPAIGN.
REBOUND

THREE DAYS LATER AND THERE'S NO SIGNS OF STOPPING.
JUST CONSTANT FIRING.
BOOOM


WE TAKE TURNS ON WATCH. BUT AS THE DAYS BLEND TOGETHER, SLEEP BECOMES HARDER AND HARDER TO GET.

YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT THEY'RE DOING?
YES.
JUST THINK WHAT IT WOULD MEAN IF THEY MANAGED TO KILL US HERE...
A LOT MORE THAN HOLDING A BRID
A RATHER BIG TARGET NOW, ISN'T IT?

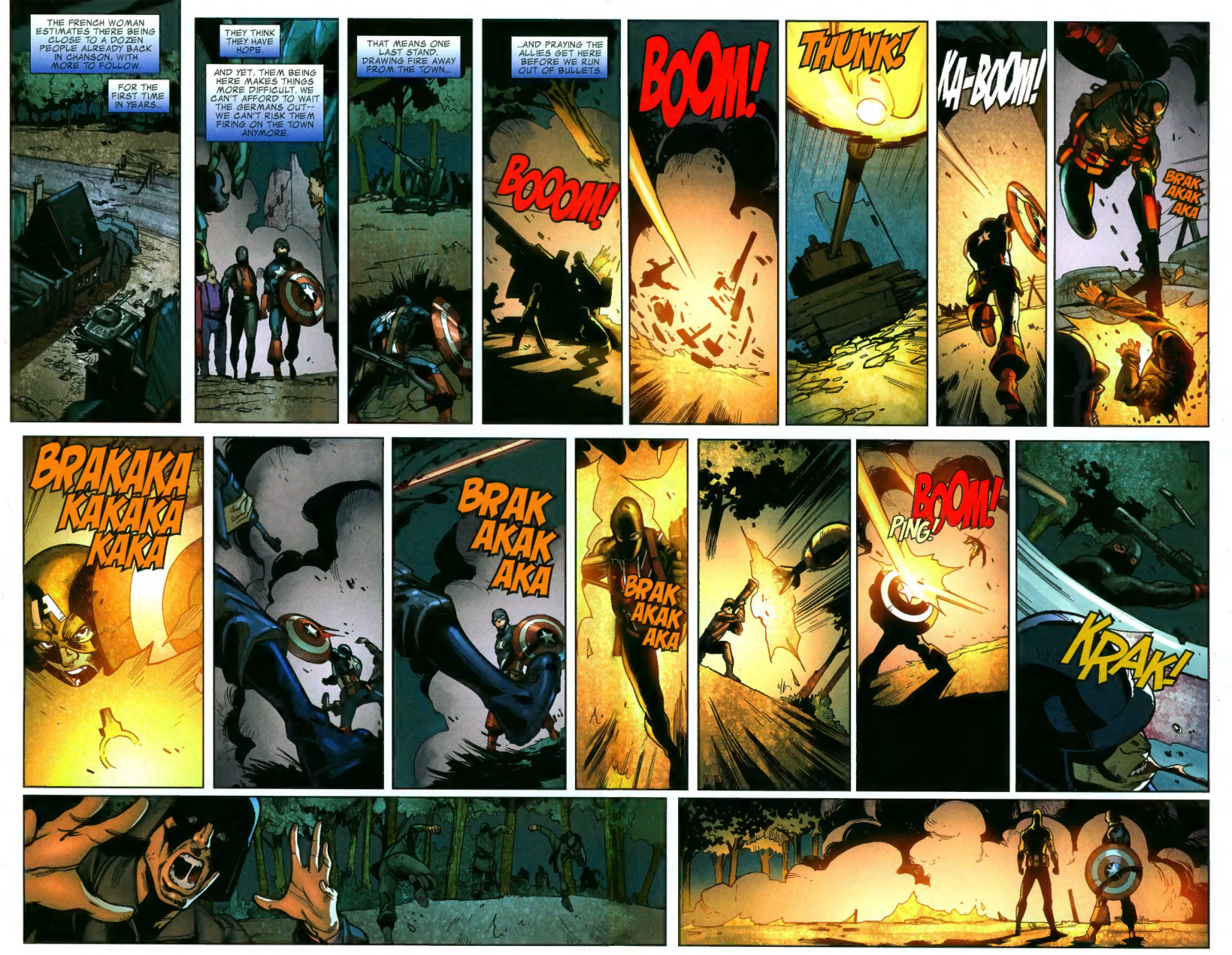
OUR K-RATIONS RUN OUT THE NEXT DAY.
WITH NO PLACE FOR US TO RETREAT, A FINAL GROUND ASSAULT CAN'T BE FAR BEHIND.
AT THIS POINT, ALL WE CAN DO IS HOPE BACKUP GETS HERE FIRST.

CREEEEEAAAAK
JACK...
THUD

THUD THUD THUD THUD

‹DON'T SHOOT!›*
*TRANSLATED FROM FRENCH.

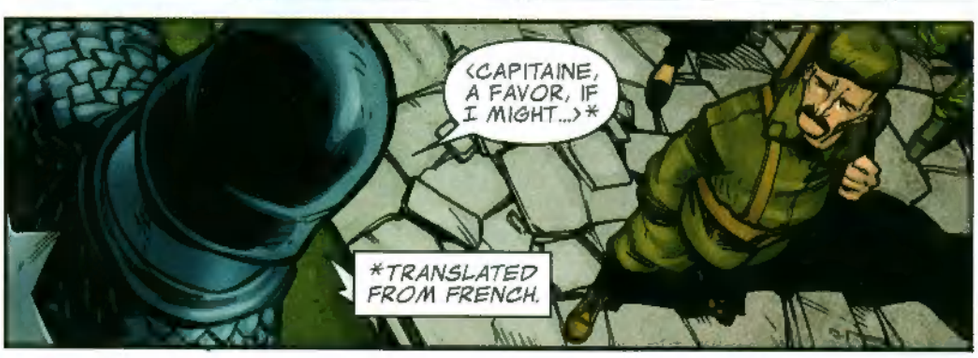
THE WOMAN AND HER SON SNUCK IN TO BRING US FOOD AND WATER...
IT'S NOT MUCH, BUT IT'LL BE ENOUGH TO KEEP US GOING FOR A FEW MORE DAYS.
THE BOY KEEPS POINTING AT MY CHEST, BUT I DON'T PICK UP ON IT RIGHT AWAY.
IT'S THE FIRST FLAG HE'S SEEN THAT DOESN'T HAVE A SWASTIKA ON IT.
THE WOMAN TELLS US SHE'S NOT THE FIRST TO COME BACK-- THAT GROUPS OF PEOPLE HAVE STARTED RETURNING.
THIS PLACE IS UNDER SIEGE. WHY WOULD YOU RISK COMING BACK NOW?
BECAUSE YOU ARE HERE. AND IF YOU ARE HERE, THEN WE HAVE WON, YES?


THE FRENCH WOMAN ESTIMATES THERE BEING CLOSE TO A DOZEN PEOPLE ALREADY BACK IN CHANSON, WITH MORE TO FOLLOW.
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YEARS...
THEY THINK THEY HAVE HOPE.
AND YET, THEM BEING HERE MAKES THINGS MORE DIFFICULT. WE CAN'T AFFORD TO WAIT THE GERMANS OUT-- WE CAN'T RISK THEM FIRING ON THE TOWN ANYMORE.
THAT MEANS ONE LAST STAND. DRAWING FIRE AWAY FROM THE TOWN...
...AND PRAYING THE ALLIES GET HERE BEFORE WE RUN OUT OF BULLETS.
BOOOM!
BOOM!
THUNK!
KA-BOOM!
BRAK AKAK AKA
BRAKAKA KAKAKA KAKA
BRAK AKAK AKA
BRAK AKAK AKA
PING!
BOOM!
KRAK!

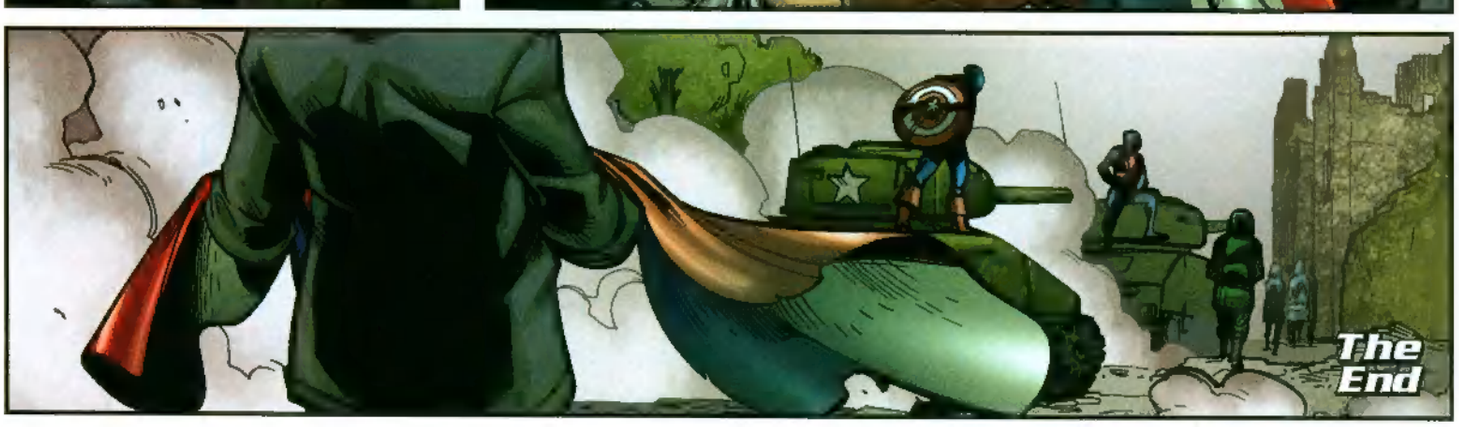
IT TAKES TWO MORE DAYS FOR THE ALLIES TO FINALLY REACH THE TOWN.
THEY COME READY FOR A FIGHT BUT FIND SOMETHING ELSE.
OUR COUNTERATTACK AND THE GERMANS' RETREAT DID MORE THAN BUY US TIME.

IT BROUGHT MORE PEOPLE.
A DAY LATER AND THE VILLAGERS ALMOST HAVE THE WRECKAGE OF THE BRIDGE CLEARED. WITH EVERYONE'S HELP, IT SHOULDN'T TAKE LONG TO BUILD A REPLACEMENT.

AFTER THAT, WE'LL BE ON OUR WAY.


‹CAPITAINE, A FAVOR, IF I MIGHT...›*
*TRANSLATED FROM FRENCH.

‹NOW YOU HAVE ONE OF YOUR OWN.›


The End

Scanned by
Lizard
with Love!